

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 DRC-01 /104 W

----- 018471

R 132100Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO ?SECSTATE WASHDC 7163

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0835

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BB

SUBJ: CIVAIR: AIRLINE SUBSIDIES

REF: STATE 079306

1. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, GOB DOES NOT SUBSIDIZE OPERATIONS OF AIR CALYPSO, ICA OR CARIBWEST. GOB DOES MOVE TO PROTECT ICA FROM COMPETITION BUT WE KNOW OF NO DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUBSIDIES PROVIDED TO THESE AIRLINES. GOB FINANCIAL SITUATION DOES NOT PERMIT IT MUCH LEEWAY IN EXTENDING THIS TYPE OF ASSISTANCE IN ANY FORM. DISCREET INQUIRIES TO GOB AVIATION OFFICIALS BROUGHT FORTH FLAT DENIAL THAT ANY SUBSIDIES WERE IN EXISTENCE AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THIS CLAIM.

2. WITH REGARD TO LIAT, WE DOUBT THAT GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA, WHERE LIAT IS REGISTERED, OR THAT U.K., WHERE LIAT IS OWNED, EXTENDS ANY SORT OF SUBSIDY OR SPECIAL TAX TREATMENT TO LIAT. GOA HAS BEEN CHRONICALLY TEETERING ON EDGE OF INSOLVENCY FOR SOME YEARS NOW AND WE SIMPLY DON'T VIEW IT AS BEING CAPABLE OF MAKING AN EFFORT TO SUPPORT LIAT WITH SUBSIDY ASSISTANCE. LOW KEY CONVERSATION WITH LIAT MANAGING DIRECTOR CONFIRMED FOREGOING VIEW. POINTING TO SHAKY FINANCIAL POSITION OF BOTH LIAT AND GOA, MANAGING DIRECTOR SAID THAT HE KNEW OF NO INDIRECT

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OR DIRECT ASSISTANCE. HE DID MENTION THAT IN SOME CASES LIAT'S

SMALLER INTER-ISLAND AIRCRAFT DID HAVE LANDING FEES WAIVED
BY SOME OF TINY ISLANDS VISITED, BUT, HE POINTED OUT, THESE
OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED AT HEAVY FINANCIAL LOSS AND FEES
AMOUNTED TO ONLY ABOUT US \$2.00 PER PLANE.
DONOVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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